

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended. New claims 30-32 have been added. As a result claims 1-32 are pending for examination with claims 1, 10, and 19 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 8-24, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisk in view of Fioretti, U.S. Patent No. 5,351,970, (hereinafter Fioretti). Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks in response, traversing the rejection. Further, Applicant has amended claim 1 to further define the Applicant's contribution to the art.

Fisk discloses a computer network which manages multiple simultaneous bingo games having a potentially large number of bingo cards. (Abstract). Fisk describes managing the computational burden associated with the multiple simultaneous bingo games by utilizing a computer network. (Fisk, p. 5 lns 6-19). Fisk also provides the ability of a player to participate in the bingo game by validating a bingo card received from a number of possible sources. (Fisk, p. 8 lns 12-13). Specifically, pre-printed bingo cards are distributed electronically to public locations, in advance of the game, for example through lottery networks to lottery machines, through ATM networks to ATMs, or by printing bingo cards in available spaces on instant lottery game pieces. (Fisk, p. 8 lns 13-16). "A player, having chosen a preferred pre-printed card, can then validate the card to participate in a bingo game *by submitting payment* for the game, and the identifier of the card (which may be typed or bar-coded onto the pre-printed card). (Fisk, p. 8 lns 20-22). Each of the steps disclosed contemplate paying for *any entry* obtained into the bingo game, whether the entry is obtained using telephone network and billing to the phone number, Internet Server or voice response server and an account number to pay, a payment account and ATM network, a lottery terminal with payment to the proprietor, (Fisk, p. 12, lns 31-32; p. 13, lns 1-3; p. 13, lns 4-6; and p. 13, lns 9-11), by first purchasing an instant win ticket and winning an entry, or by using a pre-paid preprinted bingo card. (Fisk, p. 14, lns 7-11 and 13-14).

Fisk discusses using an instant win game to provide entries into the bingo game. (See Fisk, p. 14, lns 7-11). "When bingo cards are preprinted on instant win tickets that are

distributed currently by state lotteries, the instant win game may be readily used to advertise and encourage participation in the bingo game.” (Fisk, p. 14, lns 7-9). “One type of instant *winning ticket* may give the holder a free entry into the bingo game.” (Fisk, p. 14, lns 9-11) (emphasis supplied). Further, Fisk discusses that “pre-printed bingo cards may also be pre-paid, in that no additional fee is required to enter the game.” (Fisk, p. 14, lns 13-14).

In summary, Fisk contemplates paying for *any entry* obtained into the bingo game disclosed in Fisk, whether the entry is obtained using a payment account, (Fisk, p. 12, lns 31-32; p. 13, lns 1-3; p. 13, lns 4-6; and p. 13, lns 9-11), by first purchasing an instant win ticket and winning an entry, or by using a pre-paid preprinted bingo card. (Fisk, p. 14, lns 7-11 and 13-14).

In contrast claim 1, as amended recites a method for conducting a game. The method comprises acts of providing for, in at least one of at least two of the plurality of game sessions, a wagering game of chance, providing for an entry of at least one player in at least one of a plurality of game sessions, wherein the act of providing for an entry includes an act of providing for a subscription of the at least one player to the at least two of the plurality of game sessions, wherein the act of providing for an entry further comprises acts of, providing for a primary method of entry to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, wherein the act of providing for the primary method of entry in the at least one game session includes an act of processing a wager having monetary value, providing an alternative method of entry (AMOE) to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, including an act of providing the alternative method of entry for free, wherein the alternative method of entry provides a free method of entry into the at least one game session of the wagering game, and entering the at least one player in the at least two of the plurality of game sessions, in response to processing the subscription.

Fisk does not disclose, teach or suggest claim 1, as amended. In particular, Fisk does not disclose, teach or suggest “providing an alternative method of entry (AMOE) to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, including an act of providing the alternative method of entry for free, wherein the alternative method of entry provides a free method of entry into the at least one game session of the wagering game,” as recited in claim 1, as amended. Rather, Fisk discusses paying for any entry provided. (Please see (Fisk, p. 12, lns 31-32; p. 13, lns 1-3; p. 13, lns 4-6; and p. 13, lns 9-11 and p. 14, lns 7-11 and 13-14), even when “when bingo cards are preprinted on instant win tickets,” the instant win tickets “are

distributed currently by state lotteries.” (Fisk, p. 14, lns 7-11). Moreover, Fisk is directed to reducing the computational complexity of multiple simultaneous bingo games having a potentially large number of bingo cards and includes options for facilitating entry, it is not directed to “providing the alternative method of entry for free,” as recited in the claim. Therefore Fisk does not disclose, teach or suggest “providing an alternative method of entry (AMOE) to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, including an act of providing the alternative method of entry for free, wherein the alternative method of entry provides a free method of entry into the at least one game session of the wagering game,” as recited.

Fioretti does not cure the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Fisk. Indeed, Fioretti teaches away from the recited claim language. Fioretti is directed to methods and apparatus that permit use of techniques and equipment for the “remote on-line point of sale generation of gaming tickets,” (Fioretti, Col. 6 lines 42-49), including “techniques and equipment for keeping track of all arrays *sold*.” (Fioretti, Col. 6 lines 50-58). Fioretti describes conducting bingo games for players “in response to purchase requests.” (Please see Fioretti, Col. 7, lines 14-16, Col. 8, lines 34-45, Col. 9, lines 19-30 and 31-41 (the invention contemplates issuing (selling) bingo game card arrays (sometimes referred to herein as “cards”) in response to purchaser requests using commercially available, on-line point of sale terminal outlets).

Therefore Fioretti cannot teach, disclose or suggest “providing an alternative method of entry (AMOE) to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, including an act of providing the alternative method of entry for free, wherein the alternative method of entry provides a free method of entry into the at least one game session of the wagering game,” as recited in claim 1 as amended.

As neither Fisk nor Fioretti disclose, teach or suggest all the elements claim 1, and the proposed combination of Fisk and Fioretti would teach away from the recited claim language Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection. Dependent claims 2-9 and 26-32 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Independent Claim 10

Claim 10, as amended, recites a wagering game of chance executed on a computer. The wagering game comprising a wagering game of chance, a means for entering multiple game

sessions of the wagering game of chance, wherein the means for entering multiple game sessions further comprises a subscription, wherein the subscription comprises entry into multiple game sessions of the wagering game of chance, and wherein the means for entering multiple game sessions further comprises, a primary means of entry for entering a game session of the wagering game, wherein the primary means of entry further comprises a wager processing means for processing a wager having monetary value, and an alternative means of entry for entering the game session of the wagering game, wherein a game player enters the game session of the wagering game through the use of an alternative method of entry (AMOE), and wherein the alternative method of entry (AMOE) is provided for free.

As discussed above, with respect to claim 1, Fisk is directed to a bingo game where a player pays for *any entry* obtained. Whether the entry is obtained using a payment account, (Fisk, p. 12, lns 31-32; p. 13, lns 1-3; p. 13, lns 4-6; and p. 13, lns 9-11) or by first purchasing an instant win ticket and winning an entry (Fisk, p. 14, lns 7-11). Fisk does not teach, disclose or suggest claim 10, as amended. In particular Fisk does not teach or suggest “an alternative means of entry for entering the game session of the wagering game, wherein a game player enters the game session of the wagering game through the use of an alternative method of entry (AMOE), and wherein the alternative method of entry (AMOE) is provided for free,” as recited in claim 10, as amended. Moreover, Fisk is directed to reducing the computational complexity of multiple simultaneous bingo games having a potentially large number of bingo cards and includes options for facilitating entry, it is not directed to “providing the alternative method of entry for free,” as recited in the claim.

Fioretti does not cure the deficiencies of Fisk, and teaches away from the recited claim language. Fioretti describes conducting bingo games for players “in response to purchase requests.” (Please see e.g. Fioretti, Col. 7, lines 14-16, Col. 8, lines 34-45, Col. 9, lines 19-30 and 31-41 (the invention contemplates issuing (selling) bingo game card arrays (sometimes referred to herein as “cards”) in response to purchaser requests using commercially available, on-line point of sale terminal outlets). As neither Fisk nor Fioretti teach, disclose or suggest “an alternative means of entry for entering the game session of the wagering game, wherein a game player enters the game session of the wagering game through the use of an alternative method of entry (AMOE), and wherein the alternative method of entry (AMOE) is provided for free,” and the proposed combination teaches away from the recited claim language withdrawal of the

rejection is respectfully requested. Claim 11-18 depend from claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Independent Claim 19

Claim 19, as amended, recites a computer-readable medium having computer-readable signals stored thereon that define instructions that, as a result of being executed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a method for conducting a plurality of game sessions. The method comprises providing for, in at least one of at least two of the plurality of game sessions, a wagering game of chance, providing for an entry of at least one player in at least one of a plurality of game sessions, wherein the act of providing for an entry includes an act of providing for a subscription of the at least one player to the at least two of the plurality of game sessions, wherein the act of providing for an entry further comprises acts of providing for a primary method of entry to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, wherein the act of providing for the primary method of entry in the at least one game session includes an act of processing a wager having monetary value, providing an alternative method of entry (AMOE) to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, including an act of providing the alternative method of entry for free, wherein the alternative method of entry provides a free method of entry into the at least one game session of the wagering game, and entering the at least one player in the at least two of the plurality of game sessions, in response to processing the subscription.

Fisk does not disclose, teach or suggest claim 19, as amended. In particular, Fisk does not disclose, teach or suggest “providing an alternative method of entry (AMOE) to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, including an act of providing the alternative method of entry for free, wherein the alternative method of entry provides a free method of entry into the at least one game session of the wagering game,” as recited in claim 19, as amended. Rather, Fisk discusses paying for any entry including when entry is provided as an award for an instant win ticket purchased through a state lottery. (Please see Fisk, p. 14, lns 7-11). Moreover, Fisk is directed to reducing the computational complexity of multiple simultaneous bingo games having a potentially large number of bingo cards and includes options for facilitating entry, it is not directed to “providing the alternative method of entry for free,” as recited in the claim.

Fioretti does not cure the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Fisk. Indeed, Fioretti teaches away from the recited claim language. Fioretti describes conducting bingo games for players “in response to purchase requests.” (Please see e.g. Fioretti, Col. 7, lines 14-16, Col. 8, lines 34-45, Col. 9, lines 19-30 and 31-41 (the invention contemplates issuing (selling) bingo game card arrays (sometimes referred to herein as “cards”) in response to purchaser requests using commercially available, on-line point of sale terminal outlets). Therefore Fioretti cannot teach, disclose or suggest the “providing an alternative method of entry (AMOE) to the at least one of a plurality of game sessions to the wagering game of chance, including an act of providing the alternative method of entry for free, wherein the alternative method of entry provides a free method of entry into the at least one game session of the wagering game,” as recited in claim 19, as amended.

As neither Fisk nor Fioretti disclose, teach or suggest all the elements claim 19, and the proposed combination of Fisk and Fioretti would teach away from the recited claim language, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection. Dependent claims 20-25 depend from claim 19 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested. This application should now be in condition for allowance; a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Respectfully submitted,
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